

azine

asian/american queer,
women-centered arts &
zine collective

SPRING 2023:

WE PUBLISH
OUR FIRST
ISSUE!

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU TAKING WITH YOU?

SHH - THE POMELOS
ARE TALKING!



श्रीमान / श्री
SEEDS



dear reader,

LETTER THE END

thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, energy, and love into this zine. our stories are beautiful and the spirit that has been displayed moves the heart deeply.

out of the four questions we asked at the start of this spring, one stuck with us the most. "What brought you here?" has been informative in exploring the intricacies of the asian/american narrative. it speaks of pathways, choices, and other lifetimes that could have been or have not yet come to pass. my hope is that the roots of azine aren't forgotten and that asian/american stories on campus continue to circulate and live on in student memory. through the journey of creating this collective, I learned more of the legacy we carry of other politically and creatively active asian/american students – in fact, it was the asian/american students at barnard who drove the movement for the establishment of the Center of Ethnicity and Race (CSER) at this university. remembering is crucial in order to counteract attempts to divide our solidarity with others and empower ourselves. there must be a way to continue passing down knowledge that has been so hard won.

EDITORIAL FROM THE EDITORS



azine itself began in search of an alternative third space on campus, for genuine community and commitment to listening/understanding/witnessing. azine also began out of frustration, of not being able to register for the CSER courses and not finding spaces that actually foster critical discussions and thought about our identities. we are in a ripe moment where it is possible to mobilize the asian/american movement again and we are determined to understand our own motives and what binds us all together.

to declare the need for a creative and reflective space which recognizes the intersections of class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality etc. and take action to do so has been a test of resilience and persistence. we spent an entire semester (and more) fleshing out our philosophy and carving out precious time to make a foundation like this. please take care of us and each other. we approach azine in a way where we are not seeking to define, but to continuously question.

with love,
duan + azine (nami, sreoshi, cat, frankie)

A BRIEF TIMELINE OF OUR WORKSHOPS THROUGH THE SEMESTER:



MARCH 3 //

CYANOTYPING

WE CHOSE IMAGES
THAT BROUGHT US
JOY, AND LEARNED
HOW TO DEVELOP
THEM BY CYANOTYPE!

JANUARY 27 //
OUR FIRST MEETING!
WE BROKE THE ICE
WITH BLIND CONTOUR
PORTRAITS, AND SPENT
SOME TIME WITH FOUR
GROUNDING QUESTIONS.

MARCH 24 //

ETHNIC STUDIES
TEACH-IN

A LESSON IN COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING, LED BY
SENA ZUROSKI, LIZ
KAUFMAN, & SUNG E.
BAI - STUDENT ORGAN-
IZERS FROM THE
ORIGINAL HUNGER STRIKE
THAT CREATED CSER.

FEBRUARY 10 //

IDENTITY: WHAT IS ASIAN-NESS?

WE MIND-MAPPED OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURES. THEN WE CREATED A COLLECTIVE TIMELINE TO SEE HOW OUR LIVES HAVE INTERSECTED & DIVERGED OVER TIME.

2000

APRIL 7 //

WEAVING INTER-SECTIONALITY

WEAVING OURSELVES INTO A COLLECTIVE TAPESTRY, WHILE LEARNING ABOUT THE STORIES OF PROTEST & RESISTANCE IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY - CLOSE TO HOME, FOR MANY OF US.

FEBRUARY 24 //

THE BODY AS AN INSTRUMENT

EXPLORING PERCUSSIVE MOVEMENT THROUGH KATHAK. WORKING WITH THE CYCLIC RHYTHMIC STRUCTURE OF TAAL TO TELL STORIES WITH OUR FEET (AND THE REST OF OUR BODIES).

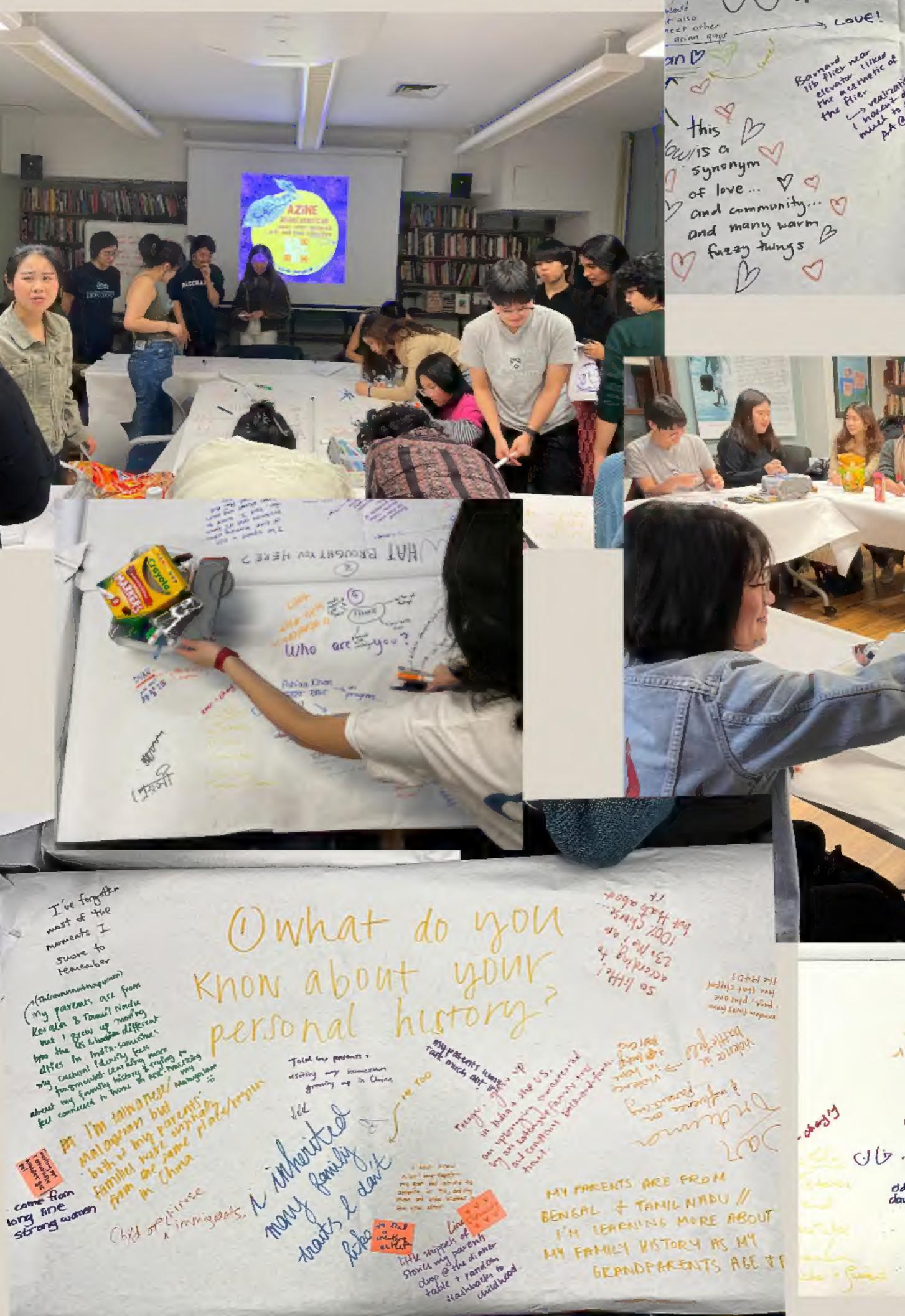
APRIL 15 //

PICNIC

WE FOLLOWED THE SUN OUTSIDE TO EAT, CHAT, DOODLE, DEVELOP CYANOTYPES, AND PLAN THIS ZINE!

MELONNA DNA

FIRST MEETING



ROUGHT YOU HERE?

I've spent a LOT
of time learning other's
histories and it's been
fun, but I want to
learn about my own
background. How did
I get here ???

Super
beautiful
flies! +1

- LOVE, THANK
YOU FOR BEING
HERE!

THANK YOU!!

To connect w/
lovely people &
make art
together! ❤



Art & creative aspect :D

having green & creative spaces / community

Duan told me to come or else they would be sad. But also to come meet other arty/again your

Frankie!

Panna Hejmodi and the M4 bus

Duan

+1
+2
+3
+4

my writing fellow is a this synonym of love... and community... and many warm fuzzy things

Barnard lib tier elevators the all the fl

I wanted to meet some new A.A creatives

OUR GUIDING QUESTIONS!

SUNDAY?

yes!

Sunday
scaries

pomelo



Asian American Third Space

Asian/American

azine third space

~~Asian American~~

pomelos 

" logo:"



PLANNING AND SCHEMING



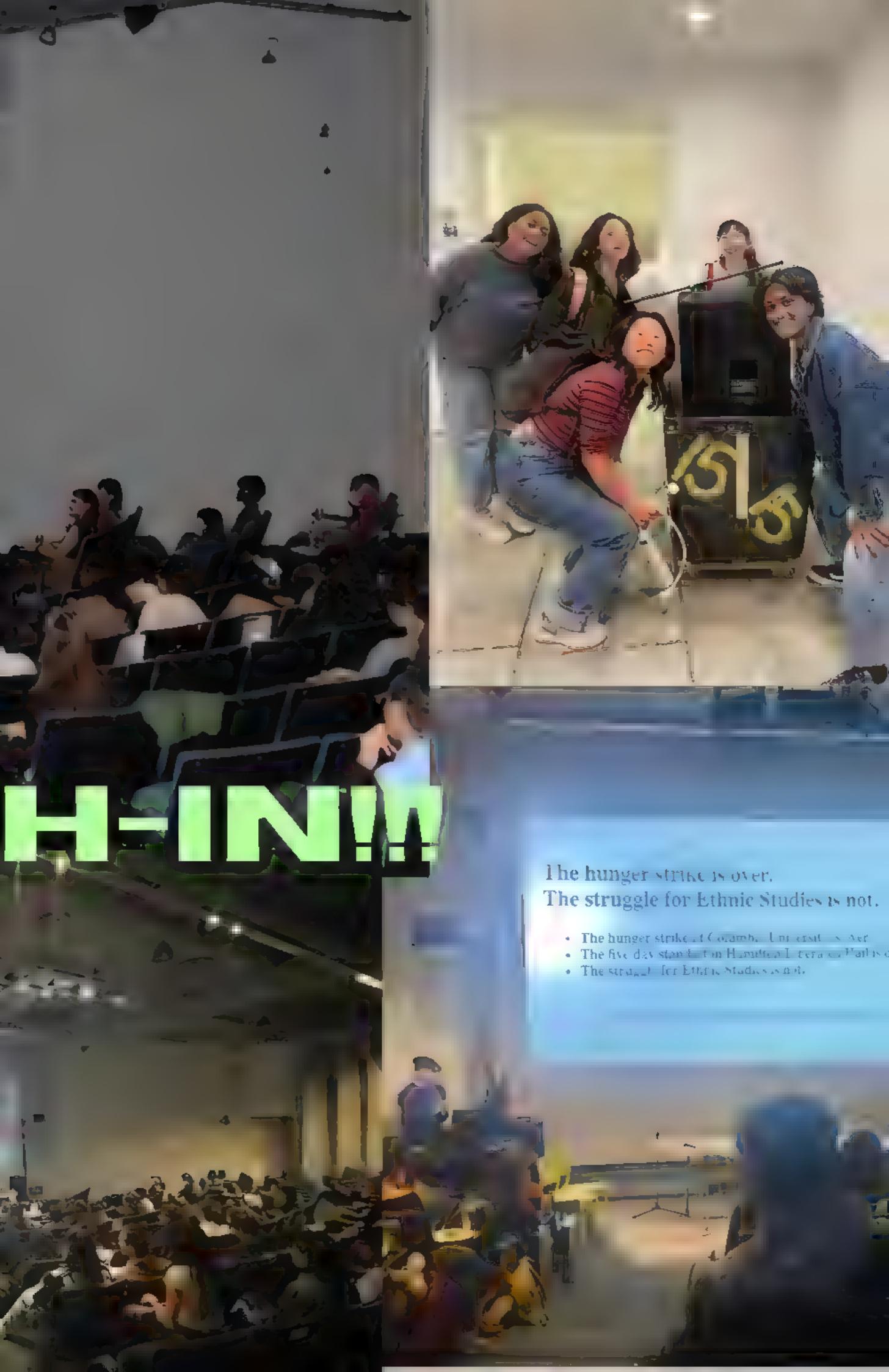
ETHNIC STUDIES AT COLUMBIA: A Living History

Original archival research compiled by Audrey Oh (CC '21)
To visit OH's site, search "CSEA: A Project, Ongoing"



TEAC





The hunger strike is over.
The struggle for Ethnic Studies is not.

- The hunger strike at Columbia University is over
- The five day stand-off in Hamilton Hall is over
- The struggle for Ethnic Studies is not.



Ash'a Khan
اشیاء خان
अशा खान



~~cat's past~~

~~many types
of birds~~



NYT WATPO & I (2015)

thought about lost history, racial melancholia,
I didn't know how to grieve
She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's
in 2014.

how am
I going
to learn
how to
be Chinese
now

she factors,
what never
interested me
family history
and that's
it's like

Cats present

Joyful Jig FM AZINE (2023)

There are many ways to live and cry and find connection

Foods I've Shared w/

fruit gummies
w/ Safira



she doesn't like
the orange ones
she picks them
out and wants
me to give



peanut butter jelly
sandwich w/ Alice
on whole wheat bread
w/ grape jelly.
we each eat a half and
share it w/ squirrels at
the park

broccoli pizza w/ Kaiden
I eat the broccoli,
he eats the pizza



berries w/ Safira
cut up strawberries,
share them
raspberries w/ Safira
listening to music
on her ipod



b-day cake
Rosie & Willy

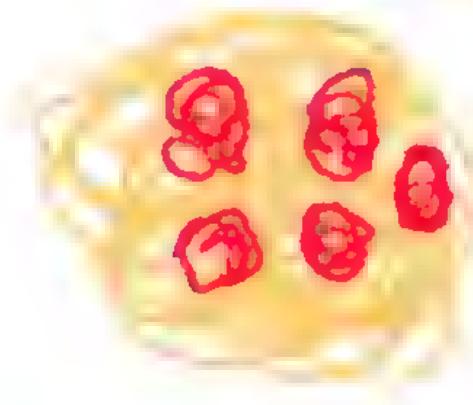
they had
of the pi
I had on
green

the kids i babysit



plate of chicken
+ buttered rice
and watermelon
wi rohan

one hand plays
the food, the other
plays wi a train



homemade
spaghetti & meatballs
wi arha, she ate
until she fell asleep
on my lap



Allergy Season '23

I've never had allergies before moving to New York. . .



Now my days are full - full of itches, blisters, and tears.



WHAT DO I DO?



eye
drops

allergy
pills

ice

and
cold compresses

NOTHING WORKED

the best medicine turned out
to be distraction — my

SMALL COMFORTS



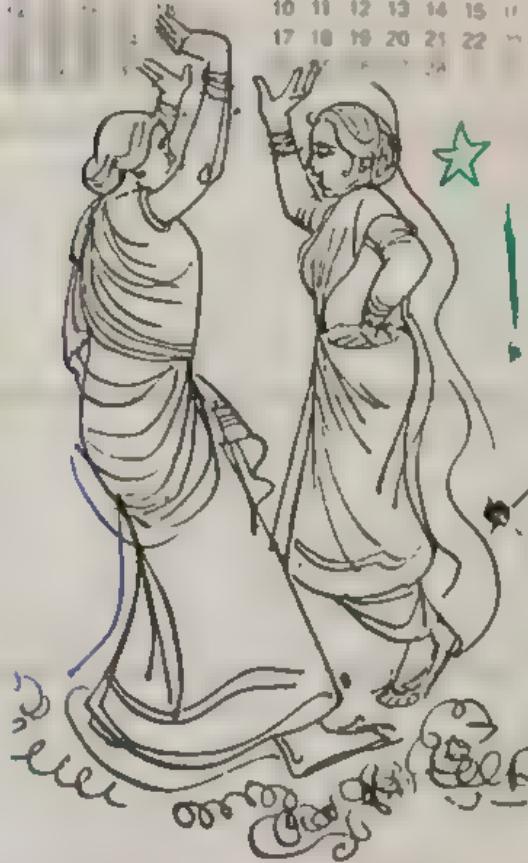
hands too busy peeling oranges
and making
• pretty, pretty
pins with
lovely, lovely
friends

and discomforts and tears and
itchy eyes are forgotten for
another day. ~

Jamie Lin
Spring '23



Wandering
with my ancestry
lineage through
my body, ★
★ spirituality
and nature ★



- Learning how to speak
23 Thai - malayalam - Hindi



24



25

1

卷之三

FAIRLESS
SEE THE MYCRO
-NET-SHAKER

an
honor



Fern Fern Fern

Fern Fern Fern

Fern Fern Fern

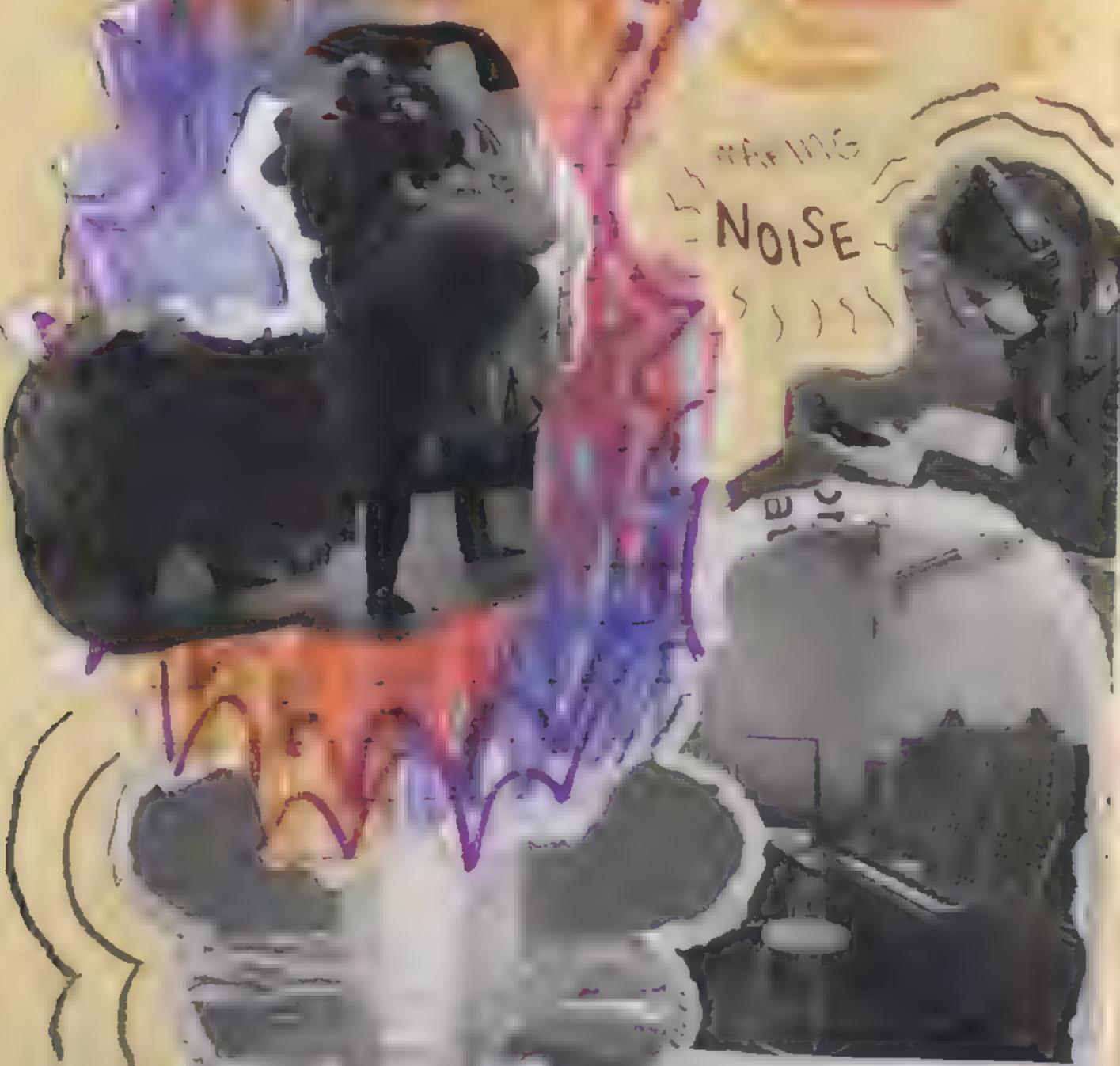
BREAKING SILENCE

critical,
creative
experimental
present

I would trust Miss Weber with
rossed \$3 million for Universal
iv from theaters. "In Mr.
film that will be
the

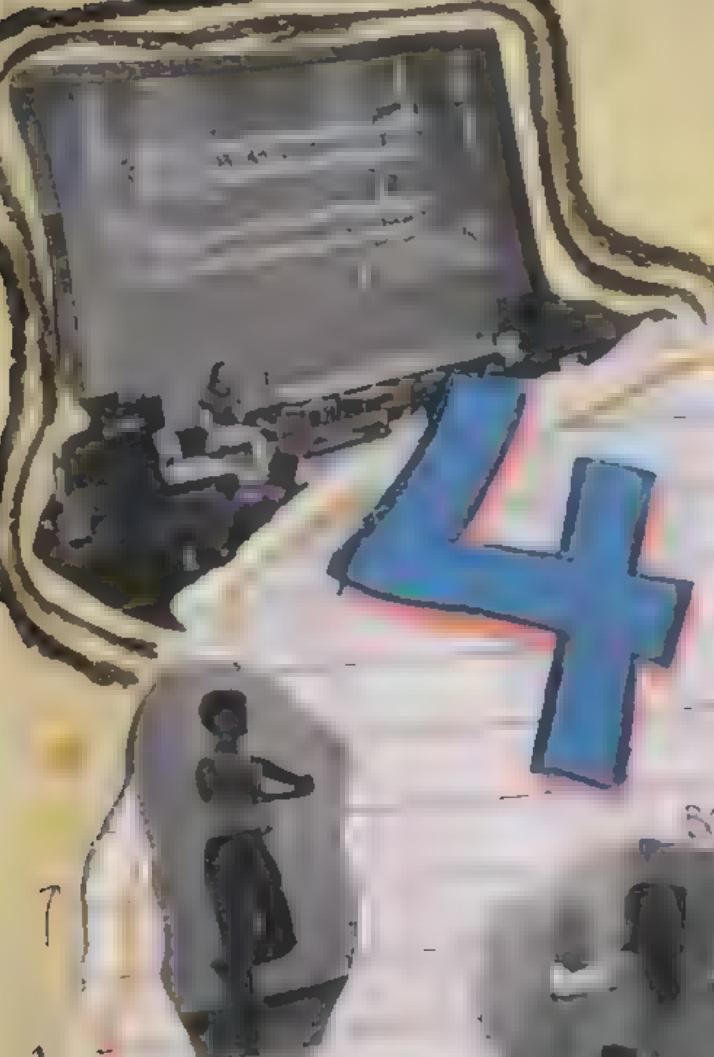
音

noise





LISTEN



4

3

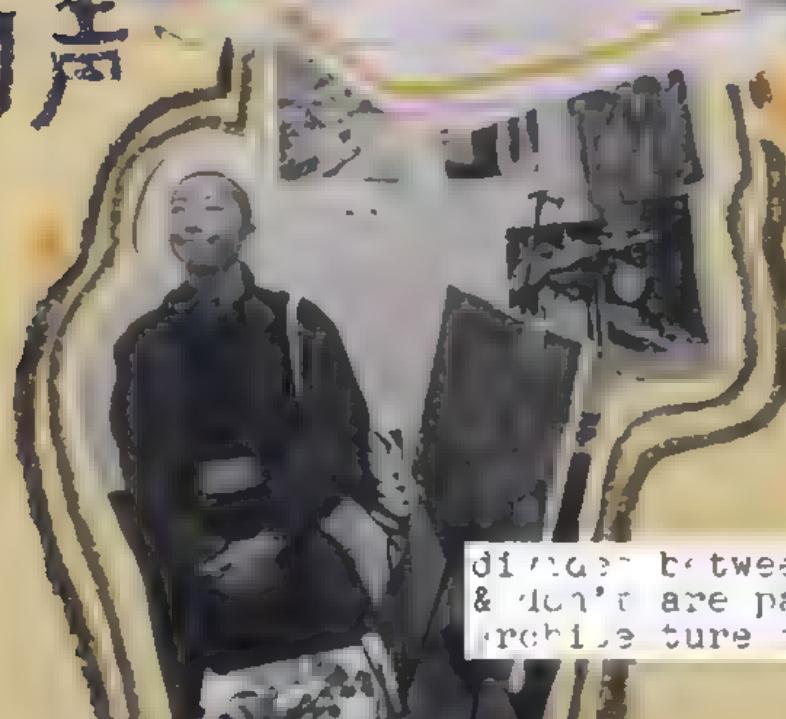
2

5

肉声

distinctions between what we can hear & don't are part of a larger architecture of ignorance

BODY AS INSTRUMENT



WE DON'T NEED THE CORE,

KHON2



<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/42-of-ame>

58% of Americans can't name a famous American

PEOPLES - There's an estimated 24 million

May 18, 2021 - When asked to name a famous American according to the **the vote** - was "don't know," followed by actor Jack Palance.

WHO
ARE YOUR
ROLE
MODELS?



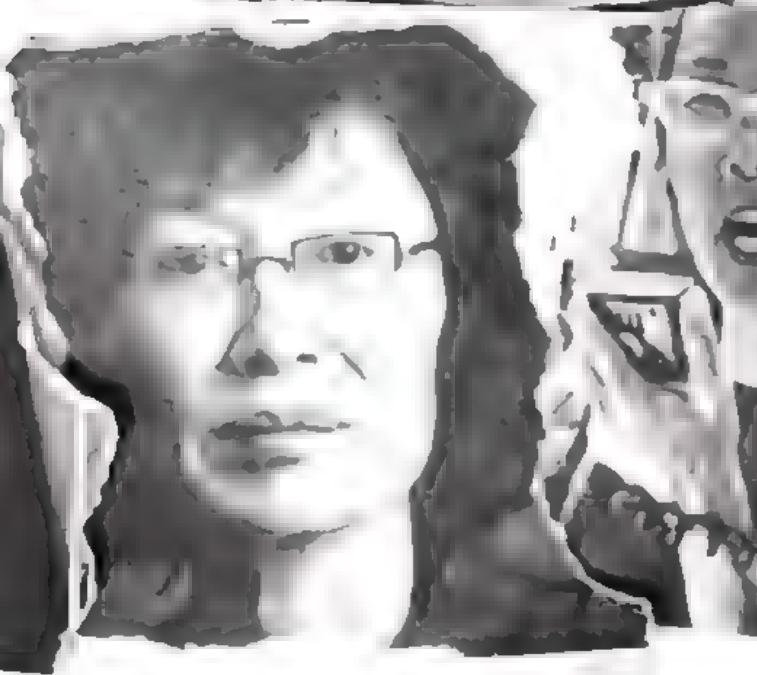
WE NEED ETHNIC STUDIES

erica :

famous Asian American

people who identified as Asian alone or in
the U.S. Census Bureau.

Asian American, the top response — with 42% of
Cookie Chan, ...



i remember living in the same hall as duan during our freshman year (RIP: aug. 2019 - mar. 2020) and wanting to be friends with them because they were so open, so kind, and just so COOL!!! they have such a big heart and we are all so lucky to know them.

i must be frank — mentally, i was not all there during this final semester of college and so i had trouble tapping fully into my creative side.

however, my lovely friends and i in CU SAFA (south asian feminism(s) alliance) made a zine! it was a group effort and it was truly so exciting to see our finished product. i never thought of myself as an artist or a writer, but that was dumb. you can do anything if you put your mind to it! and that's why i felt motivated to submit to azine as well. don't knock it 'til you try it!

i also had the privilege of taking global long-form photography with professor diana matar this past semester, and let me just say: that course changed my life. for my final photo project in the class, i examined mother nature, abundance, femininity, and the Holy Qur'an. it was a delightful time. i'm so proud of the end result.

to professor matar, nyah, allison, menasha, menal, kayla, and my classmates: i can't thank you all enough for all your help with this project. it means the world.



nov. 2021 (so little we were).

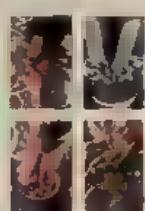
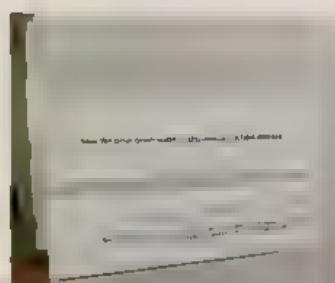
duan: you are a star and i have so much love for you. thank you for being the baddest and the realest <3 you inspire all of us to be better.



to everyone who was part of the safa zine: thank you for everything. this wouldn't have happened without you.



senior safa board pic!!! naira, me (fatima), & mahdia (ILY GUYS).



go see the whole exhibit (if you please) in milbank on the 3rd floor! the photos are gonna be up for a while!



collage i made for the safa zine!

i used to be ashamed of my side profile (due to eurocentric standards, blahblah, etc.) until i was like 18. i've been told i have my nani amma's nose and i am so proud to look even a little bit like her.



my sister and i (circa 2007?) at Mazar-e-Qasid, the final resting place of Muhammad Ali Jinnah (the founder of Pakistan).



nani amma and i, 2004.



patience, rebecca, mahdia, dani, nana, nishat, and i!



my baby brother (circa 2019??). he's perfect btw.

I WANT TO BE HAPPY!

something that caught my attention during the azine workshops was the creativity of the people in this collective! it is so easy to feel isolated and alone at times, but the azine members are so passionate and lovely that i felt welcome immediately.

as a "diaspora girlie", i've been doing a lot of self-reflection. my parents came to the United States before i was born, seeking refuge from religious persecution in their home country of Pakistan. we are Ahmadi Muslims. it's a lot to unpack. i still struggle to come to terms with it – the fact that my parents did everything for me and my younger siblings. if you're a child of immigrants, you already know what i'm talking about.

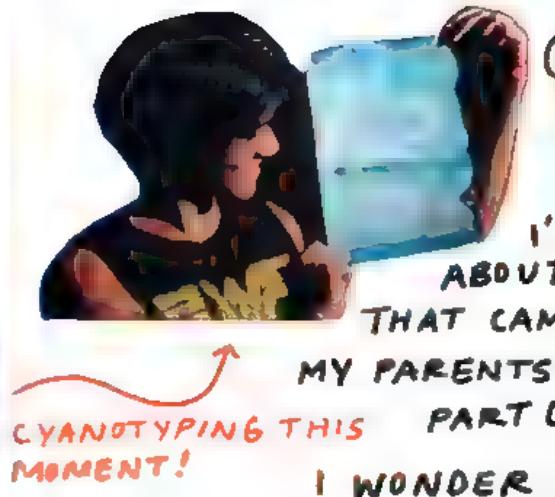
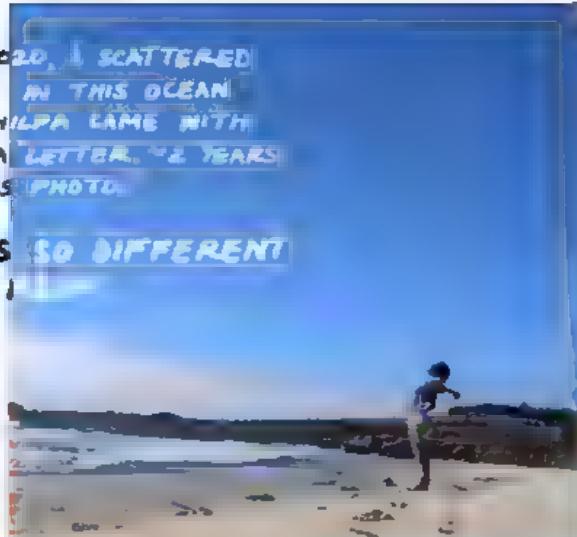
i am so lucky. so lucky. my life is so beautiful. the world is my oyster, because of all that my ammi and abbu sacrificed for me. i will never be able to thank them enough. never. what i can do is become someone that they can be proud of. i'd do anything for my parents. i love them more than i can express in words. i struggled to understand them fully when i was a child, but i have been trying my best. maybe i will never understand them fully, and i think that's what they wanted: for me to never have to fully understand the hardships they went through.

my identity is one that i am continuing to explore. i'm going home (pakistan) this summer. i'm going to travel through the northern areas and see the lands that my ancestors cultivated and farmed. of course, my predecessors probably resided in other regions that are now different "countries"... THANKS A LOT, BRITISH RAJ!!!!!!

IN SEPTEMBER 2020, I SCATTERED
MY PISHI'S ASHES IN THIS OCEAN.
1 YEAR LATER SHILPA CAME WITH
ME TO GIVE HER A LETTER. 2 YEARS
LATER I TOOK THIS PHOTO.

THIS PERSON IS SO DIFFERENT
FROM THAT PERSON.

RAINY YEAR
SUPERBLOOMS!



What inspires you?

Little life and myself

(NOT SURE WHAT I
MEANT... I'D JUST
READ 'STAY TRUE')

MY CHOSEN FAMILY
STARTS SOMEWHERE
AROUND HERE

THINGS I
LEARNED
FROM THAT

STANDING AROUND THIS GIANT ROLL OF PAPER,
LOOKING AT HISTORIES THAT WE RECOGNIZE BUT AREN'T
OUR OWN. WE GOT HERE ON PURPOSE!,

OUR BODIES HOLD SO MANY 'STORIES.
SOMETIMES OUR FEET TELL THEM
BETTER THAN WORDS. THE CYCLIC
NATURE OF TAAL (TAAL) HOLDS
INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

WE CAN WEAVE IT
ALL TOGETHER.



স্রোশি / স্রিয়া SREOSHI

I'M THINKING
OF THE STORIES
WE BEFORE US. DO
WE THINK THEY'RE
OF A STORY?

IF THEY
I THINK
THEY MADE (WHO IS SENDING
STORY, OR THE SNACK EMAIL?)
CLOSE ENOUGH

DMIT
M.

ATS.
T TO GO!



I MADE A SEED-STORY
ZINE ABOUT FOOD AS
A LOVE LANGUAGE
FT THIS CHICKEN
RENDANG I MADE
IDLIS WITH FERN
AND KETAKI.



THESE ARE THE
WOMEN WHO RAISED ME.



* THE ROYAL
YOU, AS IN FRANKIE

আমার মামিরা & আমা
(MY AUNTIES & MOTHER).
I'M FIGURING THIS
ONE OUT. IT WILL TAKE
TIME.

তুমি কি কখনও
নিজের প্রেমে
পড়েছিলেন ?

GOOD FOOD, GOOD PEOPLE,
GOOD MUSIC (ART IS TO
BE ENJOYED) - MAKES
A COMMUNITY.

THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS
LIKE TO MAKE SOMETHING
OF OUR OWN!

EATING AN ORANGE IN
RIVERSIDE: IT'S NOT NEARLY
TIME TO GROW UP!



THE DAFFODILS & TULIPS
IN NYC SPRING!
I LOVE MORE IN THE SUN

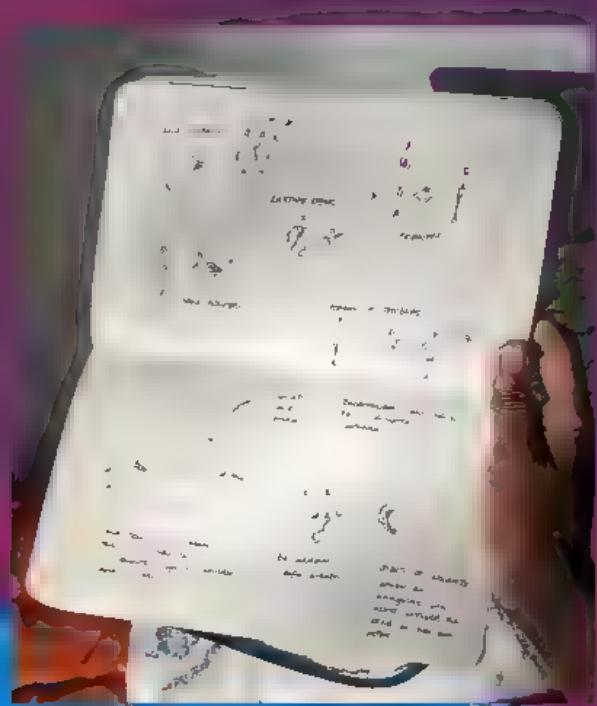
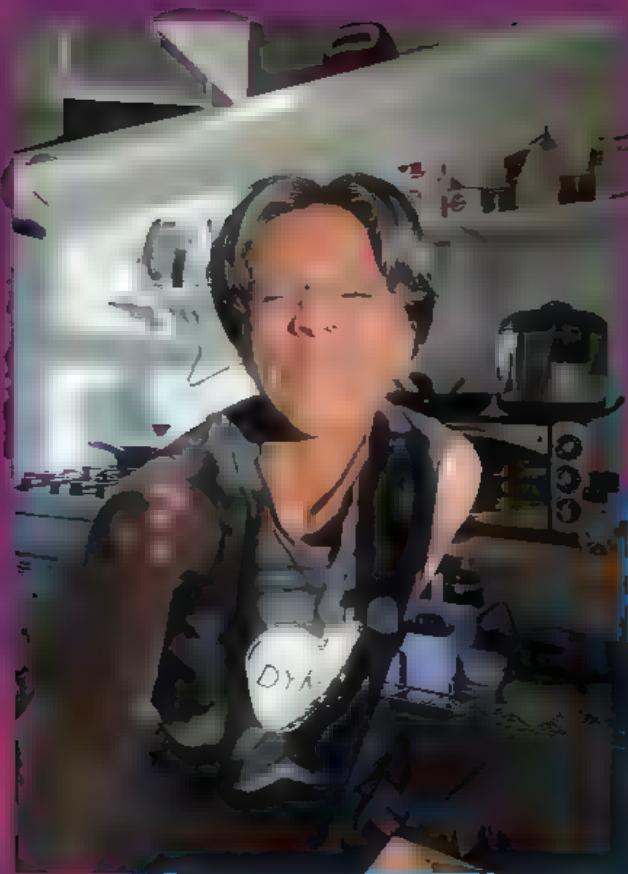
THE BERRIES
ARE GONE

G-SUITES HAS STAGNATED.
YOU HAVE TO ADD FOLKS
TO LISTSERVs
MANUALLY

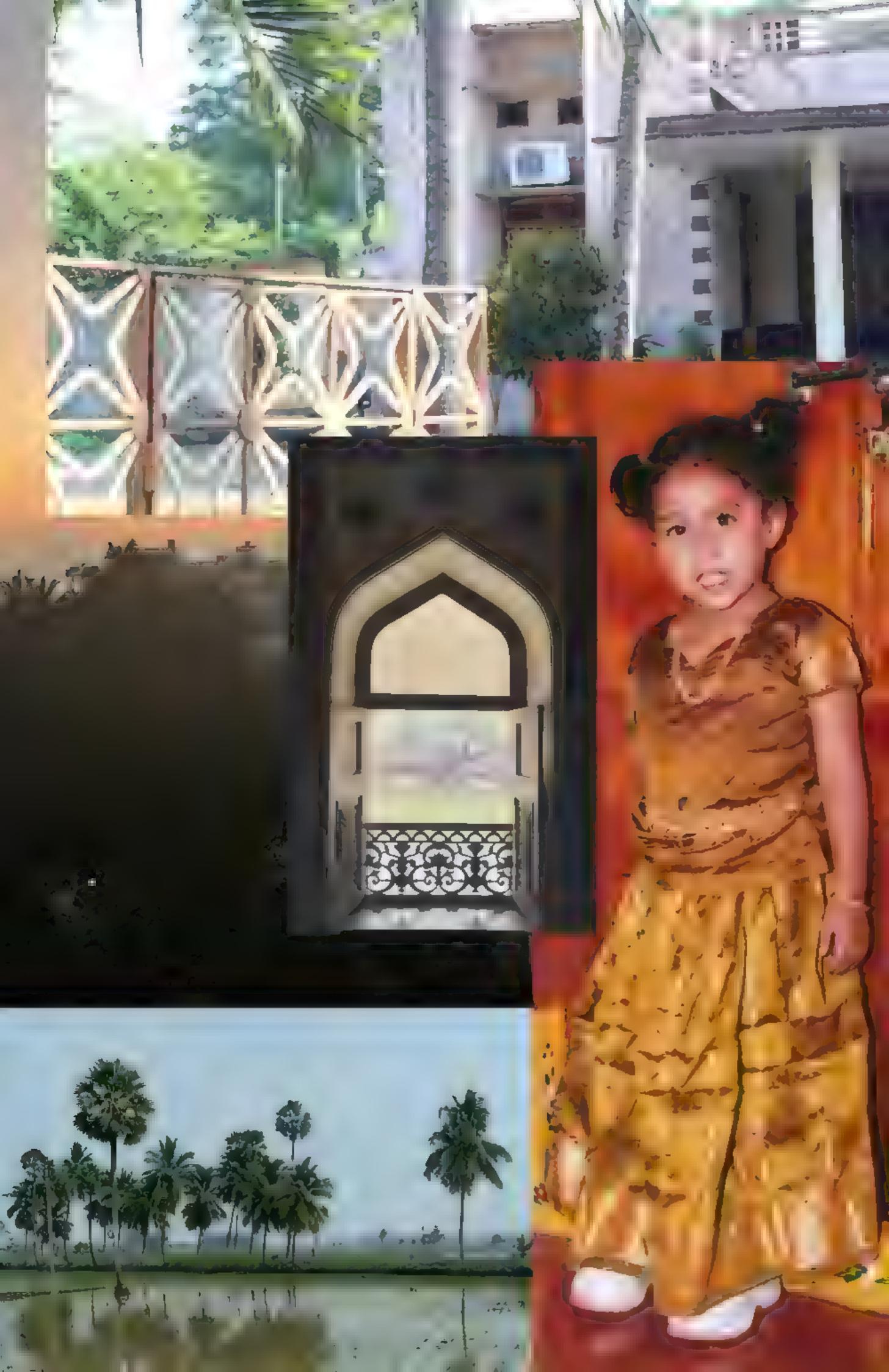




রিয়া







INDIGO ZHU

"under one odorous roof"

- CRYING IN HUART

When I was young,
my favorite part of the day
was returning home from
school to a heaping bowl of
rice and 西红柿鸡蛋汤 my
grandma had prepared. The
familiar aromas would
fill the kitchen + they made
me feel safe. Home-
cooked Chinese food
was always a treat.

Nov 2007

Aug 2008

Second grade was the first time I remember feeling embarrassed about my lunch. I'd peek out the lid of my thermos a slice of tiny kate or dumpling or fish in it my mouth and screw the lid back on forever. I hoped no one had seen - or worse, smelled - the meal my grandma so lovingly packed when I'd get home and ask me why I'd refused to eat the foods I devoured at home. She was confused as was I.



It has taken me a long time to appreciate those "lunchbox moments," and for my mind to realize the foods my taste buds have loved all along. Living away from my family I have grown to long for the taste of 蛋包饭 and 酒酿 in a way I didn't expect. I've recreated some dishes, like these



LUNCHBOX
moment

Feb 2023



LUNCHBOX
moment



frankie fierro

chinese american adoptee, amongst other things.

薛

利

欣

the other things: big fan of emails as a
love language, rachel weisz and robust grilled cheese
sandwiches

nobody will
we're so close
i feel at time
half here and
people, time

YOU

i took a 23 and me test
hundreds of four times
insane actually.
out i'm 100% ch
of my dna was from

i love azine because
that there are a lot of contradictions. it's
thoughtful and like it
has it figured out

ever tell me if adoptees count as "children of the diaspora".
se.
es like a child of immigrants:
d half there, mourning a language, caught between continents,
e zones.

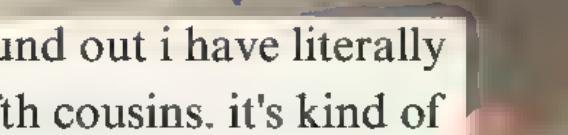


but i'm the immigrant, except not really? most immigrants know their trajectory. moving from one named place to another named place. they know where they came from.

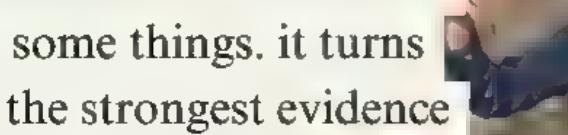


a lot of being an adoptee is just not knowing. i don't know where i was born, or what time (much to the chagrin of barnard astrology enthusiasts.) i don't know if i have siblings. i don't know if my birth mom is also left-handed.

IS SOMETHING TOOK AWAY? FELT TIRED BY?



me and found out i have literally
rth and fifth cousins. it's kind of
i did learn some things. it turns
inese, and the strongest evidence
ound in jiangsu province.



use it's a space to not know. i like
ot of questions--and a lot of
like how we're a bit messy and
kind to each other. and nobody
t. i think that's the best part.



Eris's Show and Tell Page

of times not-long-ago and times long-past



September 2022
My dog in Shanghai, China

My mom took this photo. I haven't been home in two years and I miss my family a lot, so very much. A common question I get asked is where do you want to stay after you graduate. I've always been reluctant to answer this question. My family is in China yet I am not. The question of where do you belong and where will you see yourself is always a question I can't answer.



EXIT sign



Fall 2022
Seagull somewhere on a pier by Wall Street

So I always used to like seagulls because they're kinda nasty little birds. I've always lived somewhere near the ocean. I was born in Qingdao, grew up in New Bedford, went to middle and high school in Shanghai, and now I'm in New York. There are always seagulls somewhere, eating trash and breaking shells. I like to think of them as a symbol of resilience.

Summer 2022
Cyanotype of a Hampshire College Sheep

Hampshire College has meant a lot to me. To go to a place where there are no majors or grades and no one telling you what classes to take - it's a lot of freedom but also a lot of pressure to figure out what you want. I don't know if leaving was the right choice but I guess life goes on.

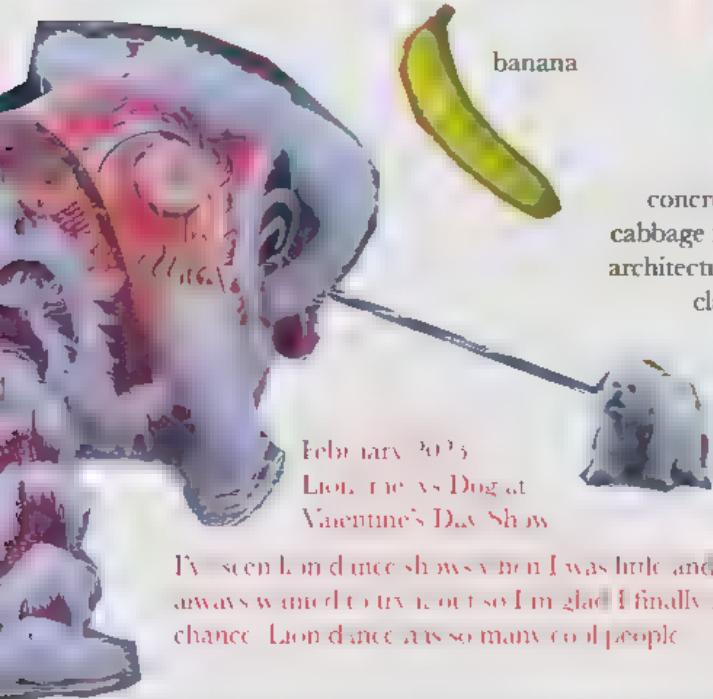


stray potato found on new york city streets



banana

concrete cabbage for architecture class



February 2023
Lion tail vs Dog at Valentine's Day Show

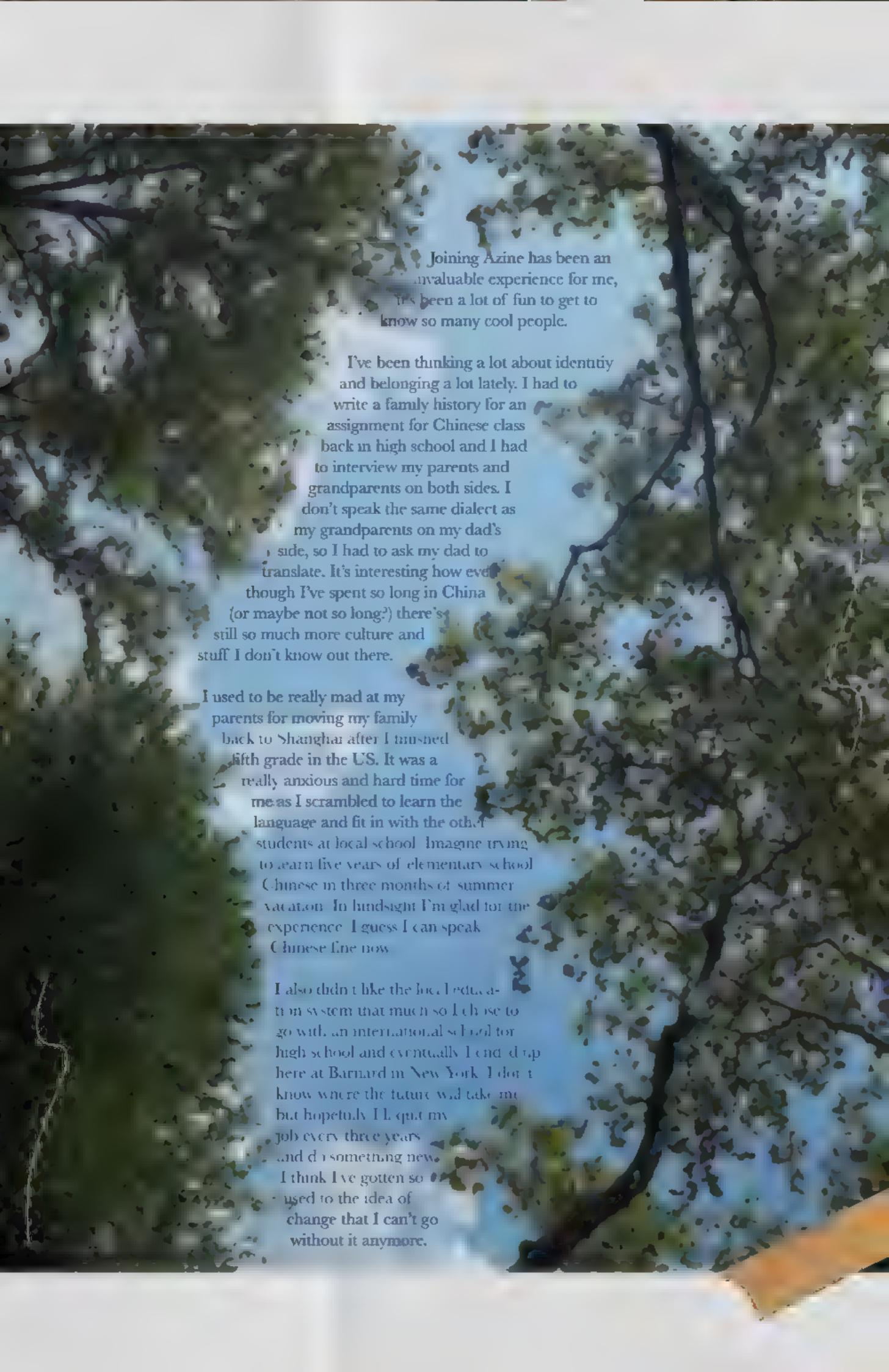
I've seen lion dance shows when I was little and I've always wanted to try it out so I'm glad I finally got the chance. Lion dance is so many cool people.



Lion tail (not me)

clock





Joining Azine has been an invaluable experience for me, it's been a lot of fun to get to know so many cool people.

I've been thinking a lot about identity and belonging a lot lately. I had to write a family history for an assignment for Chinese class back in high school and I had to interview my parents and grandparents on both sides. I don't speak the same dialect as my grandparents on my dad's side, so I had to ask my dad to translate. It's interesting how even though I've spent so long in China (or maybe not so long²) there's still so much more culture and stuff I don't know out there.

I used to be really mad at my parents for moving my family back to Shanghai after I finished fifth grade in the US. It was a really anxious and hard time for me as I scrambled to learn the language and fit in with the other students at local school. Imagine trying to learn five years of elementary school Chinese in three months of summer vacation. In hindsight I'm glad for the experience. I guess I can speak Chinese fine now.

I also didn't like the local education system that much so I chose to go with an international school for high school and eventually I ended up here at Barnard in New York. I don't know where the future will take me but hopefully I'll quit my job every three years and do something new. I think I've gotten so used to the idea of change that I can't go without it anymore.



I am
cramped
against
the
margins

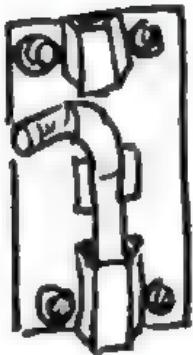


آنکھیں مل صیری جان اب کھول دے انہیں
ان ساسوں کے سارے داز بس بول دے انہیں

Ash'aa

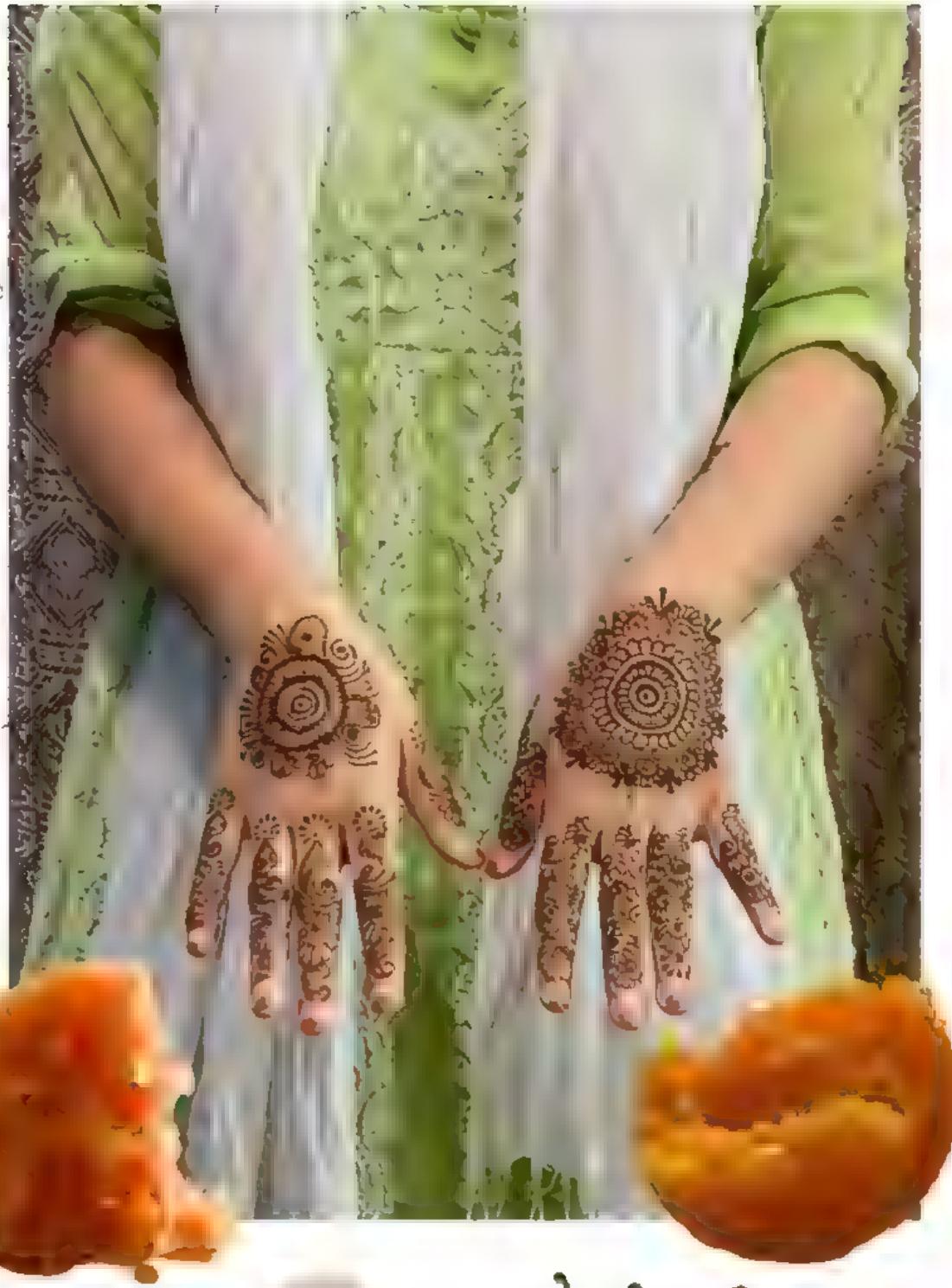
خان

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Stretching
to make
room



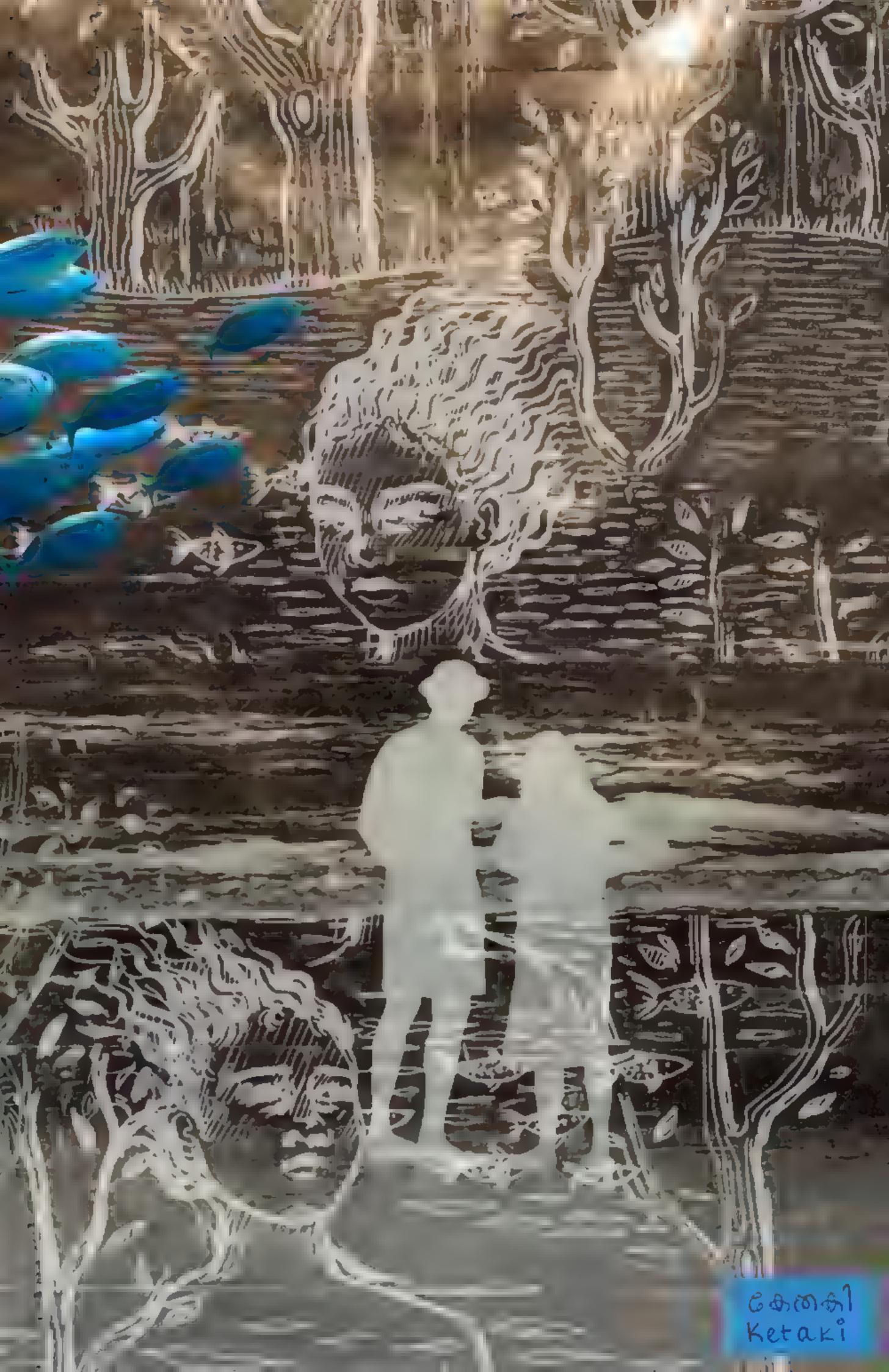
Khan
خان
खान



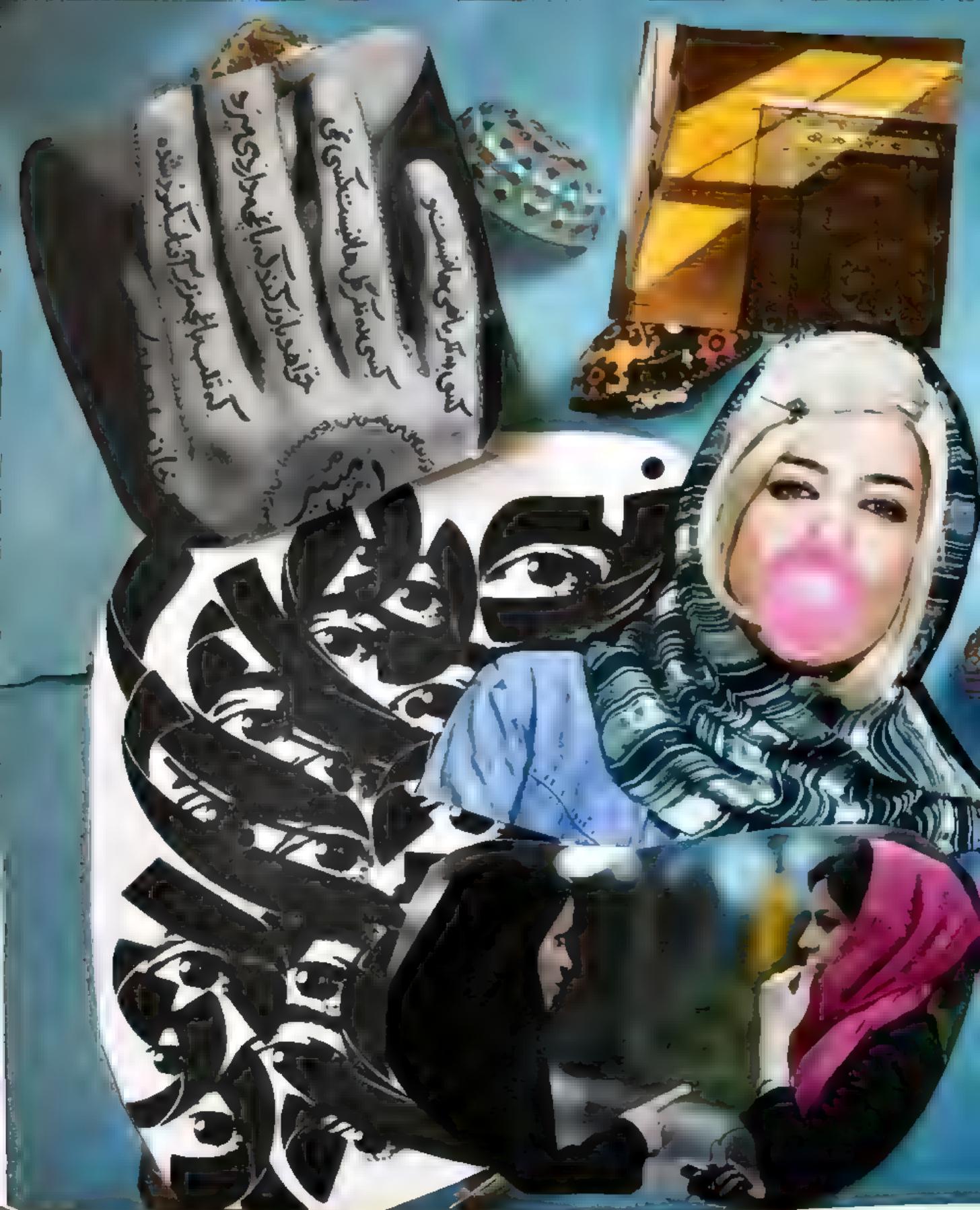
... शब्दों के लिए
से जो गुजरा
ती साँझ
में ही

१८५६





கெடகி
Ketaki



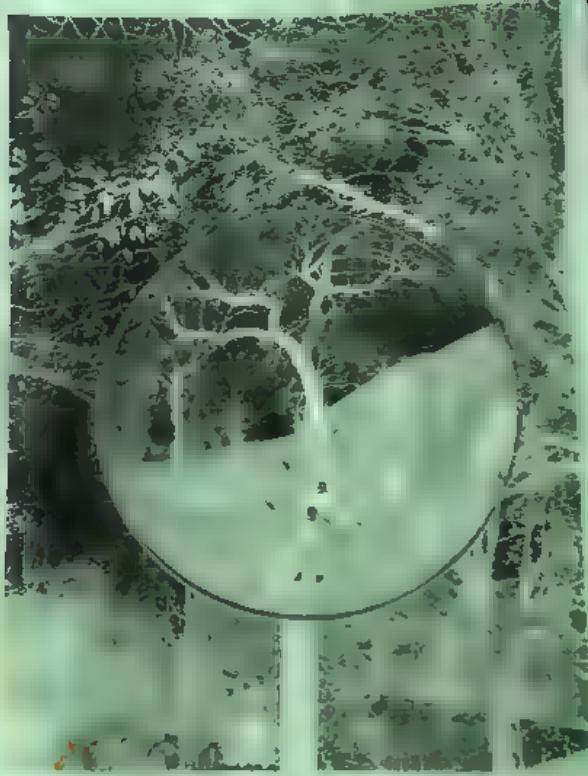
world might well look to Iran to see how its culture will react to the conquest of Western industrialization. Will cheap machine-made goods and conditioned minds bring Iran's unique cultural achievements to a close? Or will Iran rise again in a new achievement equal to those of her past? |

My mother, I have your hands, the thin ridge of gold Tattered at the
east, heel the rule of fox beneath the vanguard. Even the barley
your laugh grows along their throat.
But you say something in my field cannot. Then I have lost
the battle for your god, your gardens, your grace.
This daughter will leave the table cold. She will
empty chairs, scatter rugs, and fail to catch those Christ
hands.

It is too late to apologize... Yet, she will forgive me when
I return. My feet damp across meadow grass - it will open
her face will startle like a flock of birds before wheeling back to the nest.

The
quests of
human
again -

I didn't quite make a cyanotype, but the photo I chose was one of friendship. I entered this year very bitter about people and wanted to be proven wrong



attempting to carry lessons and wisdom from those before us onwards, continuing the fight for ethical standards and our right to

azine happened as I found myself shifting, growing, learning... trying to hold my values close, while in search for genuine community and finding my voice again

TEACH-IN

THE FIGHT FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

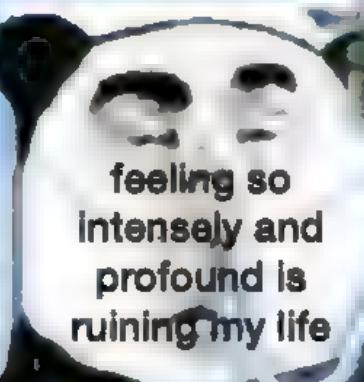
Ethnic studies advocates meet

WITH STUDENT ORGANIZERS FROM THE ORIGINAL HUNGER STRIKE

DINNER ON MON. 5:45 PM

HOSTED BY AZINE & THE SER STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

I learned much more about the importance of organizing/advocacy when a wrong had been recognized and understanding that the powerful do not want to be held accountable



feeling so
intensely and
profound is
ruining my life



duan

◀ BACK/NEXT ▶ Delete

SONY



my thoughts

we are all in a
shared experience
together; how does
community continue?



nami and I



if I was so
dissatisfied with the
leadership in other
communities, why not
make it myself?
I want this space
to be better



and the
bombers ideal

who am i, who i am

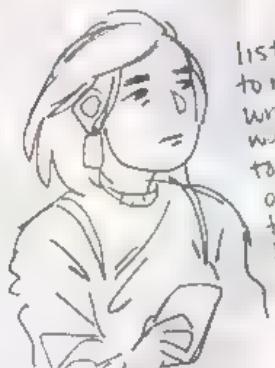
i am a hater and a lover. i grew up playing nintendo and club penguin: i loved watching dragon ball and pokemon. i am and will always be an artist. i listen to songs on loop and watch instagram reels of rats. my current wonders: does prezbo have a weather machine to stop it from almost never raining during graduation season, why do most friends lose their values in friendships when dating for the first time, and what will happen when im no longer a student. i want more queer asian friends! but only ones who are less self absorbed and actually care about the community. i hate people who pretend to understand and listen, but it's obvious that they're only thinking about themselves. i wish i could write better. i want to drink more tea and play around with my friends. i wish i had less regrets, or that i came to terms with them. i want to keep lion dancing and get better, but i dont know why i do. i want to keep doing art and do pieces that mean things to me!



I am always connected to technology



phone in my bed, b/c I use it for an alarm clock



listening to music while walking to class, or on the subway

using my laptop at my desk in my dorm room



in class, I use my ipad to take notes



(one screen time report for my laptop said my avg daily use for the week was 11+ hrs)

using my phone when I'm bored, to distract myself



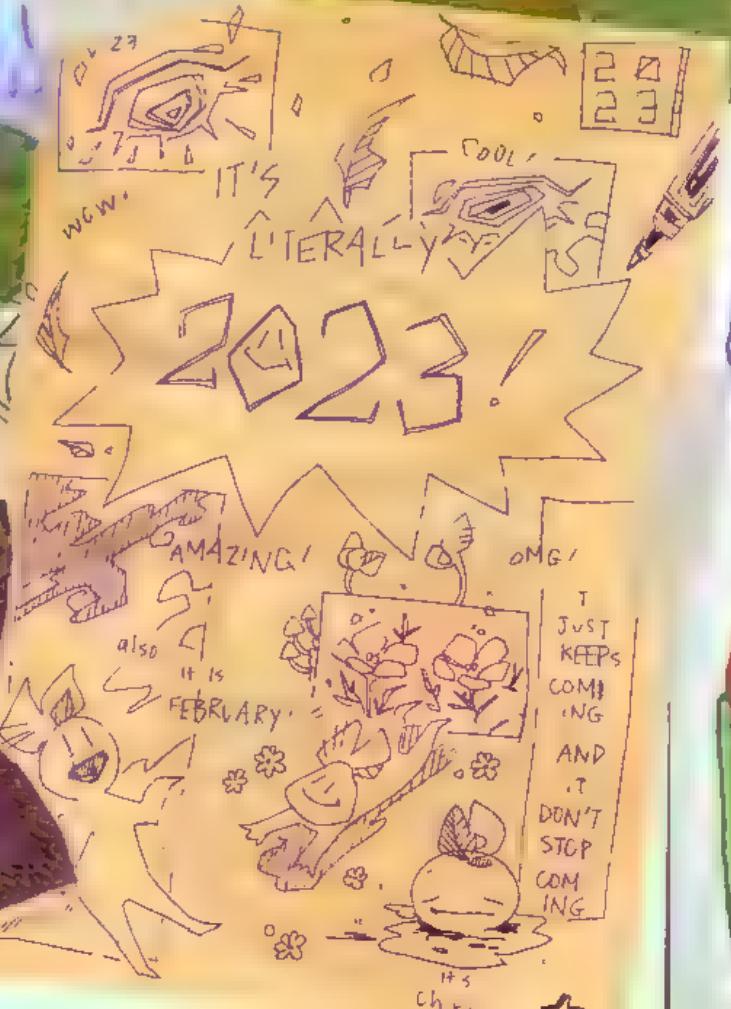
(that reminds me, new



burns

list of materials.

- every seven days, a week passes. sometimes
- i look up and realize the moon is full again, a month has slipped by. i
- take plants and press them between the pages of books.
- they are going to end up in my journal eventually. i would do that to the moon too if i could



MAY 2023

Issue 16



racest

familiar power

approach of

good character

and less

of

the

other

and

the

other



A
BETTER
OR
WORSE
REGARLESS.

IT IS

TRYING
MY
BEST



well today



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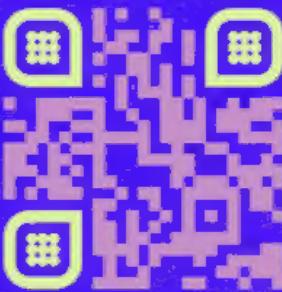
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**KEEP IN
TOUCH!**





AZiNE
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queer, women-centered
arts and zine collective



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SP
2023

